Practice Questions: Factors Influencing Reaction Rate - Catalysts - WS #6

1. Phosgene, COCl₂, one of the poison gases used during World War I, is formed from chlorine and carbon monoxide. The mechanism is thought to proceed by:

step 1:
$$Cl + CO \rightarrow COCl$$

step 2: $COCl + Cl_2 \rightarrow COCl_2 + Cl$

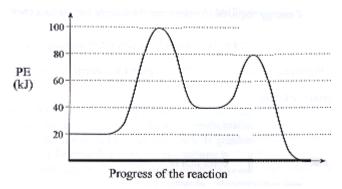
a. Write the overall reaction equation.

b. Identify any reaction intermediates.

c. Identify any catalysts.

2. We have typically been simplifying our potential energy curves somewhat; for multistep reactions, potential energy curves are more accurately shown with multiple peaks. Each peak represents the activated complex for an individual step.

Consider the PE curve for a two-step reaction:



a.	What is ΔH for the overall reaction?
b.	What is ΔH for the first step of the reaction mechanism?
с.	What is ΔH for the second step of the reaction mechanism?
d.	What is ΔH for the overall reverse reaction?
e.	What is E _a for the first step?
f.	What is E _a for the second step?
g.	Which is the rate-determing step - step 1 or step 2? How do you know?
h.	What is E _a for the reverse of step 1?
i.	Is the overall reaction endothermic or exothermic?